



Jay Sprott

04/03/2007 06:36 AM

To: Dutton4MT@hotmail.com, EHilbert@Midrivers.com,
klock@mtintouch.net, Kennedth59@bresnan.net,
CVVincent@hotmail.com, HD84Ward@WMconnect.com,
Rickjore@hotmail.com, Koopman@IMT.net, GRT3177@smtel.com,
HENDRICKHD14@Yahoo.com, MMILBURN@MCN.NET
cc: w.lundin@Bresnan.net, Jay Sprott/PH/Novartis@PH
Subject: Opposition to SB 78 !

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that the Billings Rod & Gun Club, and the Montana Wildlife Federation is inappropriately speaking on my behalf in support of SB 78. I am a member of the Billings Rod & Gun Club but do not, I stress DO NOT SUPPORT SB 78 ! Regardless, of what you've heard from a few people speaking on behalf of the Gun Club's membership, there are plenty of members that don't agree with the public taking advantage of private property rights.

I'm not a rich man, nor am I a large property owner. However, I do hunt and fish as if it's an obsession. I hunt on both public and private land. Never in my wildest dreams would I ever launch myself off a bridge access to trespass on private property. I ask for permission first! It's comical to me that these people in support of this measure wouldn't dare allow the public to trespass in their respective backyards if someone wanted to take advantage of a public right away given to each of us by a water line, telephone line, electric line, sewage line, water line, etc.... If you pass SB 78 you will put landowners at risk of liability and will have stolen their property without properly purchasing a perpetual easement for a safe and proper public easement. Also, think of the damage you will do to landowner's and the public's relationship concerning access to future hunting locations. What in the world is wrong with either using the current public access points versus the unsafe and illegal taking of private property. If we need more access points, then let's work with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in conjunction with Hunting & Fishing Conservation groups to pay for them to be properly built! The people that want this bill to get passed are those that most likely treat public property like a public restroom. Why in the world should a private landowner be subjected to poor behavior and disrespect. Why not ask him or her to purchase and build a safe, clean and lasting public easement. The passing of this bill will only further alienate landowner's and the public sportsman. It is my firm opinion that many people in this state apparently don't believe in private property rights and want the state to "whitewash over" those constitutionally protected rights for a few unhappy souls.

Once again, The Billings Rod & Gun Club, in conjunction with the Montana Wildlife Federation "DO NOT SPEAK" for me!

I am in firm opposition to this very unfair Senate Bill 78. Heck, if you're going to pass SB 78, why stop at unsafe bridge access? Why not let the public fish from any and all highway bridges and or hunt on the highway, interstate or railroad track borrow pits? Where will it end? When private property owners give in and give their property to the state? Of course not, so let's stop this misguided attempt to abuse the Montana tax paying landowners.

I personally don't believe in Socialism and this bill smacks of it! If people want access, then pay for it, volunteer time to a landowner, or simply ask for appropriate permission. Remember, without the landowners, the sportsmen & women in this state wouldn't have the wildlife and habitat to use and enjoy that we currently share. Isolate the landowner by the taking of his rightful property rights, we, the sportsmen & women will lose out on our wonderful hunting heritage in this state.

Please, don't jeopardize our future hunting and fishing access with this awful state sponsored land grab, under the guise of conservation and public access. Remember, conservation is separate from access issues. If you pass this bill to allow people to tramp all over private landowner's rights, I wouldn't blame all the ranchers, farmers and recreational landowners to come together and shut us off permanently to future hunting and fishing access. Who does that benefit? Ask yourselves, why are people breaking the

law and now want you to sanction it? In the meantime, I'd like to ask you, where are my daughters going to hunt and fish in the future if you pass this bill? It most likely will not be on block management lands or other private lands. Please, with all due respect, I request that you not vote in favor of Senate Bill 78.

Very respectfully,

Jay & Nancy Sprott

Jay Michael Sprott"
3705 Yeoman Road
Shepherd, MT 59079
(406) 861-1861'